

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2025**

Minutes of a Regular Meeting held by the Town of Shawangunk Town Board, County of Ulster, State of New York, at the Town Office Building at 14 Central Avenue, Wallkill, NY on the **6th day of February 2025 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT were Supervisor Kenneth Ronk, Councilman Brian Amthor, Councilman Joe LoCicero, Councilman Adrian DeWitt, Councilman Alex Danon, and Town Clerk Jane Rascoe. Also, present were Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski, Police Chief Gerry Marlatt, Court Clerk Kathy Ebbrell, Planning Board Members Rich Barnhart and Ryan Reid, Sergeant John Spinato, and several members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Ronk led the Town Board in a moment of silence and the pledge to the flag.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 16, 2025.

**VOTE: Councilman Danon, aye, Councilman DeWitt, abstain, Councilman Joe LoCicero, aye, Councilman Brian Amthor, aye, Supervisor Ronk, aye.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

#### **Pine Bush School**

Mr. Joe Lenz was present to discuss the details of the upcoming Capital Improvement Project for the Pine Bush School District. He explained that the vote is scheduled for March 4, 2025. Mr. Lenz reviewed the improvements that will take place in all seven district buildings. There will be two propositions on the ballot. Proposition number one is a total of \$52,260,000.00 and consists of heating and cooling improvements, roof restorations, fire alarm upgrades, replacements of floors, ceilings and windows, elevator replacement and a new athletic complex at Circleville. These improvements will have no financial impact on the taxpayers. Proposition number two totals \$27,035,000.00 and consists of installing air conditioning in gyms and cafeterias, updating signage, replacing or resurfacing gym floors, painting and blacktopping, updating classrooms, renovation of the auditorium in the high school and expanding of the bleachers, press box and concession stand at Loneragan Field. Proposition number two

will only be approved if Proposition number one is approved. Mr. Lenz answered questions and thanked the Town Board for the opportunity to address them.

### REPORT OF TOWN OFFICERS

#### HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

##### **Driveway Bonds**

Highway Superintendent Rich Blazeski distributed copies of a Draft Proposed Driveway Procedure for the Town Board's consideration. He explained that there are funds that remain constant and remain as such. He is proposing to increase the amount of the bond to \$2500.00 to ensure that the driveways get completed. Councilman LoCicero explained that there is money in an account that the State Comptroller identified in an audit. To the best of his knowledge, letters were sent out to the people who posted those bonds. He previously spoke to the Town Supervisor and Attorney about releasing the funds to the Highway Department. Councilman LoCicero stated in his opinion the money should be transferred to the Highway Department. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the bond amount should be increased. Supervisor Ronk will inquire with the Town Attorney if the increased bond amount requires a Resolution by the Town Board, or a Local Law. He will also inquire about moving the funds to the Highway Department as discussed.

##### **Staffing**

Superintendent Blazeski advised that with the change to a full-time clerk, he can track and create new programs. He explained that he has spoken to the Building Inspector with regard to issuing certificate of occupancies and driveway aprons. They are now able to do better record keeping.

##### **Vehicles**

Superintendent Blazeski advised that the last two snowstorms have been plowed with the one-ton dump trucks. There was a cooling issue with the single axle which has been fixed. The purchase of warranties has been working in favor of the town; the fleet is now at full capacity. He thanked the Town Board for the decision to purchase the warranties. By doing this, it has allowed the department to make progress.

##### **Equipment**

Superintendent Blazeski reported that the Grade-all is up and running. The purchase of a replacement, and the value of the existing Grade-all was discussed. The 2026 590 backhoe has been received. The 580b Backhoe can be moved to the Transfer Station. It was agreed that the 580 would be more useful at the Transfer Station and for parks, rather than selling for surplus. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to make the transfer of the 580 as a General Fund Purchase from the Highway Department.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**POLICE CHIEF REPORT****Equipment Purchases**

Chief Gerry Marlatt reported that Officer Spinato and he met with the Police Committee. They previously agreed to purchase the radar units. They would like to proceed with the purchase of tablets, a camera, and printer. The estimate for four PC tablets was reviewed by the Town Board. A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman LoCicero to proceed with these purchases as discussed.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Ulster County Cert Team**

Chief Marlatt reported that Sergeant Reynolds is interested in trying out for the team this year. He explained that Sergeant McDermott attended last year. Supervisor Ronk stated that he supports the program which can be helpful in bringing other people to our town. A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to support Sergeant Reynolds to attend.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Training**

Chief Marlatt reported that Officer Wolpert is interested in being certified as an SRO. He will be attending the school in March.

Chief Marlatt reported that part-time Officer Donahue has requested a two-month leave of absence. He works full time in Goshen and has the opportunity to attend Commercial Enforcement School. Chief Marlatt explained that the town will benefit from this training with the only issue being scheduling. A motion was made by Councilman Danon and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to approve the leave of absence for Officer Donahue.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

Chief Marlatt advised that the date for the Multi-Jurisdictional Tactic Training with the Ulster County Sheriff's Office and Town of Plattekill has been moved. SUNY New Paltz has agreed to send instructors for the training which will be good for student/instructor ratio.

Councilman LoCicero requested that a meeting be set up to review the radio purchase quote. Sergeant Spinato will set up the meeting prior to proceeding.

Councilman LoCicero advised that the Lexipol bill was signed today and inquired about any policy changes. Chief Marlatt explained that it is ready to go, but he needs to follow up on those changes. He anticipates it being ready within a month.

**HIGHWAY**

Discussed under Highway Superintendent

**PUBLIC SAFETY****Mass Gathering Permit**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the application by United Sherpa for their Annual Lunar New Year Celebration Mass Gathering Permit. The location is at 186 River Road. The date of the event is April 19, 2025 and time of the event is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The expected attendees are one thousand people. The organization has rented Popp Park on that date for parking. They provide buses for the attendees from Popp Park to the event site. Police Chief Marlatt stated that this event is held every year without any issues. Supervisor Ronk noted that the group does a good job and applies for the necessary permits. A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor to approve the Mass Gathering Permit to United Sherpa.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Emergency Management Plan**

Councilman LoCicero reported the last update to the Emergency Management Plan was 1996. He will be meeting with Mike Madison from Ulster County to start to rebuild the plan.

**WATER & SEWER****Water Lead Service Inventory**

Supervisor Ronk discussed the mailer that was sent to the residents of the water district. Delaware Engineering will start going door to door next week. Tyler from the water department will be accompanying them. The mandate from the EPA is that the service line to each house must be checked for lead. Mr. Ronk explained that when the inventory is completed, the town may be eligible for grants.

**Sewer South Project**

Supervisor Ronk advised that the grinder pumps and basins have been delivered and are being stored in the Town Hall Annex. He appreciated the help of Tyler from H2O and Fair Rite for the assistance in unloading the materials. The project is moving forward, and the anticipated start date is in April. The projected time to complete the project is four months. Mr. Ronk reported that he spoke to a representative from the Milk Factory who advised him that they are moving forward with their financing.

**PARKS****Popp & Verkeerderkill**

Councilman DeWitt reported that the tank at Popp Park was pumped out this week. He reported that the vandalism at Verkeerderkill Park was cleaned up and the ice rink is being used again.

**Garrison & Verkeerderkill**

Councilman Danon reported that he is working with a new company for park equipment. He expects to have renderings available next week. There is a six to eight week turn-around for the equipment.

**Galeville**

Councilman LoCicero will be getting three price quotes for yolk raking the area that was cleared last fall. He will plan for a start time of the pickleball courts.

**SIDEWALK/LIGHTING**

Supervisor Ronk reported that Councilman Amthor, Highway Superintendent Blazeski and he surveyed areas for sidewalk work. They decided a good place to start would be from Bridge Street to Crittenden Street down Wallkill Avenue. Other work that may be involved would be moving utility poles. The engineer will be reviewing the plan and providing estimates.

**RECREATION**

Councilman DeWitt reported that the field usage is beginning to fill up at the parks.

**RESOURCE RECOVERY/TRANSFER STATION**

Councilman Danon reported that he has been getting complaints about the overcrowding and has been looking at options. Messina Scrap Metal is willing to come in and take away material. He is discussing less labor-intensive options with Green Wave Electronics. He is exploring ideas to clean up the operation. The 580 backhoe will be especially useful with the cleanup.

**PERSONNEL/PROCEDURES**

Supervisor Ronk advised that there will be an Executive Session held at the end of the meeting to discuss collective bargaining issues.

**BUILDINGS**

Councilman Danon reported that he has been meeting with cleaning companies for cleaning Town Hall. He currently has three quotes and is expecting two more. He is anticipating having them by the next meeting.

Supervisor Ronk reported that the handicapped lift to the Community Room has been fixed. The company replaced the batteries, and it is back in operation.

Councilman DeWitt will be addressing the plowing and shoveling with the company that was hired to do the Town Hall and sidewalks.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he was told that Building One at Wallkill Commons will be ready to rent in March. If desired, a tour of the building for town officials can be scheduled.

**COMPUTERS**

No report.

**INSURANCE/PURCHASING****Insurance**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he spoke to the Reiss Group, continuing the discussion about rates. At this point he has been advised to expect a possible ten to fifteen percent increase.

**Purchasing**

Supervisor Ronk advised that he will be having Lunch & Learn in the near future. This will be held for town employees on the purchasing policy.

**UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS****Short Term Rental Law**

Supervisor Ronk requested the board members to continue reviewing the draft law and submit any comments or changes to him. He would like to schedule a Public Hearing in the near future. He is anxious to get comments from the public.

**Food Trucks**

Supervisor Ronk reported that there is a need to address the larger issue with food trucks prior to issuing permits.

**NEW BUSINESS****Local Law No 1-2025 – Extension of Volunteer Tax Exemption**

Supervisor Ronk reported that New York State passed an amendment last year to allow the exemption to be extended to add qualified volunteers who volunteer in another municipality near the town they live in. He explained that this affects about ten to fifteen volunteers in our town who originally were not eligible. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to schedule a Public Hearing on this proposed local law on February 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Vehicles & Equipment**

Councilman LoCicero discussed the need for service on the bucket truck owned by the Town. Councilman Amthor will inquire where to have it serviced by a certified repair shop.

**Millennium Strategies**

Supervisor Ronk reported that he has received a contract with Millennium for renewal of the grant writing services with the Town. Mr. Ronk explained that the terms are the same as last year's contract. The only change that will be made is the company will have direct involvement with the department heads instead of just himself. So far, there is six million dollars in grant applications in the pipeline. Mr. Ronk feels that the Town is well positioned for the RESTORE Grant. He recommends renewing the contract. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Danon to renew the contract with Millennium Strategies.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**Charging Stations**

Supervisor Ronk advised that he will be attending a meeting with the Environmental Management Council to discuss charging stations. He will report back to the board members at the next meeting.

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS**

The following claims were audited.

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>WARRANT</u>	<u>VOUCHERS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GENERAL	3	57-112	\$ 68,792.74
HIGHWAY	3	18-	\$ 117,097.57
WATER	3	8-10	\$ 2,189.21
SEWER	3	15-26	\$ 46,617.09
LIGHT	1	1	\$ 2,022.72
TRUST & AGENCY	2	5-6	\$ 150.00
FIRE DISTRICTS	1	1-4	\$1,609,512.83
DRAINAGE DISTRICTS	1	1	\$ 601.20
LIBRARY DISTRICTS	1	1	\$ 525,040.70
AMBULANCE DISTRICTS	1	1	\$ 300,000.00

A motion was made by Councilman DeWitt and seconded by Councilman Amthor that the claims be paid as audited.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman Amthor to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining issues.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

A motion was made by Councilman Amthor and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to enter back into the Regular Meeting.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

**The Executive Session started at 8:20p.m. and ended at 8:42 p.m. No action was taken.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman LoCicero and seconded by Councilman DeWitt to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**VOTE: ALL AYE.**

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Jane P. Rascoe, Town Clerk